

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) A method of increasing the vigor and/or the yield of an agronomic plant comprising treating the plant or its propagation material with an effective amount of a triazole fungicide, or a strobilurin-type fungicide; and

planting the treated propagation material and/or growing the treated plant in the substantial absence of pest pressure by fungal plant pathogens against which the triazole, or strobilurin-type fungicide is known to be active, and thereby increasing the vigor and/or the yield of the plant,

wherein the strobilurin-type fungicide is selected from the group consisting of azoxystrobin, dimoxystrobin, famoxadone, kresoxim-methyl, metominostrobin, picoxystrobin, pyraclostrobin, trifloxystrobin, and mixtures thereof.

3 - 7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the plant or its propagation material is treated with a silthiofam-type fungicide in addition to the triazole or strobilurin-type fungicide.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the fungicide comprises a triazole fungicide having a halogen-substituted phenyl group that is linked to a 1,2,4-triazole group.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the fungicide comprises a triazole fungicide selected from the group consisting of amitrol, azaconazole, bitertanol, bromuconazole, climbazole, clotrimazole, cyproconazole, diclobutrazol, difenoconazole, diniconazole, diniconazole-M, epoxiconazole, etaconazole, fenbuconazole, fluquinconazole, fluotrimazole, flusilazole, flutriafol, furconazole, furconazole-cis, hexaconazole, imibenconazole, ipconazole, metconazole, myclobutanil, paclobutrazol, penconazole, propiconazole, quinconazole, simeconazole, tebuconazole, tetraconazole, triadimefon, triadimenol, triazbutil, triticonazole, 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(1H-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl)ethanone, and mixtures thereof.

11. (original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the fungicide comprises fluquinconazole, simeconazole, tebuconazole, tetraconazole, triticonazole, 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(1H-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl)ethanone, or mixtures thereof.

12. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, wherein the fungicide comprises fluquinconazole.

13. (original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the fungicide comprises simeconazole.

14. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, wherein the fungicide comprises tebuconazole.

15. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, wherein the fungicide comprises tetraconazole.

16. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, wherein the fungicide comprises triticonazole.

17. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, wherein the fungicide comprises 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(1H-1,2,4-triazole-1-yl)ethanone.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the fungicide comprises fluquinconazole and simeconazole.

21. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the fungicide comprises fluquinconazole and azoxystrobin.

22. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the fungicide comprises simeconazole and azoxystrobin.

23. (original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the fungicide comprises simeconazole and silthiofam.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the plant or its propagation material comprises seed and the seed is treated with an amount of the fungicide from about 0.1 gm/100 kg of seed to about 1,000 gm/100kg of seed.

25. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the seed is treated with fungicide in an amount of from about 2 gm/100 kg of seed to about 200 gm/100 kg of seed.

26. (original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the seed is treated with fungicide in an amount of from about 10 gm/100 kg of seed to about 150 gm/100 kg of seed.

27. (original) The method according to claim 26, wherein the seed is treated with fungicide in an amount of from about 20 gm/100 kg of seed to about 100 gm/100 kg of seed.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is selected from the group consisting of corn, cereals, barley, rye, rice, vegetables, clovers, legumes, beans, peas, alfalfa, sugar cane, sugar beets, tobacco, cotton, rapeseed (canola), sunflower, safflower, and sorghum.

29. (original) The method according to claim 28, wherein the agronomic crop comprises corn.

Second claim numbered 29 (canceled)

30 – 63. (cancelled)

64. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the class Magnoliopsida.

65. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the order Fabales.

66. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the family Fabaceae.

67. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the sub-family Papilionoideae or Faboideae.

68. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is selected from the group consisting of *Pisum spp.*, *Medicago spp.*, *Arachis spp.*, *Glycine spp.*, *Vicia spp.*, *Vigna spp.*, trefoil, clovers and *Phaseolus spp.*

69. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the agronomic plant is a soybean plant.

70. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of treating the plant or its propagation material comprises treating the seed with an effective amount of the fungicide.

71. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of treating the plant or its propagation material comprises applying the fungicide to the foliage of the plant.

72. (previously presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the family Fabaceae.

73. (previously presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein the agronomic plant is a member of the sub-family Papilionoideae or Faboideae.

74. (previously presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein the agronomic plant is selected from the group consisting of *Pisum spp.*, *Medicago spp.*, *Arachis spp.*, *Glycine spp.*, *Vicia spp.*, *Vigna spp.*, trefoil, clovers and *Phaseolus spp.*

75. (previously presented) The method according to claim 70, wherein the seed is treated with an inoculant comprising *Azospirillum spp.*, or *Rhizobium spp.*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp.*, or a mixture of *Rhizobium spp.* and *Bradyrhizobium spp.*, or a mixture of either *Rhizobium spp.*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp.* with any other microorganisms.

76. (previously presented) The method according to claim 70, wherein the seed is treated with an inoculant comprising *Bradyrhizobium japonicum*.

77. (previously presented) The method according to claim 70, wherein the treatment of the seed of the plant comprises, in addition, treatment of the seed with a fungicide selected from the group consisting of fludioxonil, fluquinconazole, difenoconazole, captan, metalaxyl, carboxin and thiram.

78. (previously presented) The method according to claim 70, where the treatment of the seed comprises treatment with an inoculant comprising *Azospirillum spp.*, or *Rhizobium spp.*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp.*, or a mixture of *Rhizobium spp.* and *Bradyrhizobium spp.*, or a mixture of either *Rhizobium spp.*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp.* with any other microorganisms.

79. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the plant propagation material comprises a seed and wherein the seed possesses a transgenic event providing the plant with resistance to a herbicide and the treatment comprises foliar application of said herbicide.

80. (previously presented) The method according to claim 79, wherein the herbicide is selected from the group consisting of glyphosate, glyfosinate, glufosinate, imidazilinone and STS system.

81. (previously presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein the seed possesses a transgenic event providing the plant with resistance to a herbicide selected from the group consisting of glyphosate, glyfosinate, imidazilinone and STS system and the treatment comprises foliar application of said herbicide.

82. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the treatment comprises treating the seed of the plant with an inoculant selected from the group consisting of *Azospirillum spp.*, *Rhizobium spp.*, *Bradyrhizobium spp.*, a mixture of *Rhizobium spp.* and *Bradyrhizobium spp.*, and a mixture of either *Rhizobium spp.*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp.* with any other microorganisms, and further includes foliar treatment of the plant with an active agent.

83. (previously presented) The method according to claim 82, wherein the seed possesses a transgenic event providing the plant with resistance to a herbicide selected from the group consisting of glyphosate, glyfosinate, glufosinate, imidazilinone and STS system and the treatment further comprises foliar application of said herbicide.

84. (previously presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein the seed possesses a transgenic event providing the plant with resistance to a herbicide and the step of applying the fungicide to the foliage of the plant comprises the application of the fungicide in combination with said herbicide.

85. (previously presented) The method according to claim 84, wherein the herbicide is glyphosate.

86. (previously presented) An agronomic plant or its propagation material for which *Gaeumannomyces graminis* is not a disease-causing organism, wherein the plant or its propagation material has been treated with a composition comprising an effective amount of an active agent which has activity against *Gaeumannomyces graminis*, and wherein the plant is not wheat and the active agent is selected from the group consisting of a triazole fungicide, and a strobilurin-type fungicide.

87. (previously presented) The plant or its propagation material of claim 86, wherein the *Gaeumannomyces graminis* is of the variety *tritici*.

88. (previously presented) A plant or its propagation material of the family Fabaceae which has been treated with a composition comprising an active agent which has activity against *Gaeumannomyces graminis* in an amount sufficient to increase the yield and/or the vigor of said plant, wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of a triazole fungicide, and a strobilurin-type fungicide.

89. (previously presented) The plant or its propagation material according to claim 88, wherein the *Gaeumannomyces graminis* is of the variety *tritici*.

90. (previously presented) The plant or its propagation material according to claim 88, where the propagation material is a seed and wherein the plant is a soybean.

91. (previously presented) The seed according to claim 90, wherein the seed is contacted with an inoculant comprising *Rhizobium spp.*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp.*, or a mixture of *Rhizobium spp.* and *Bradyrhizobium spp.*, or a mixture of either *Rhizobium spp.*, or *Bradyrhizobium spp.* with any other microorganisms.

92. (previously presented) The seed according to claim 91, wherein the seed is contacted with a fungicide selected from the group consisting of fludioxonil, fluquinconazole, difenoconazole, captan, metalaxyl, carboxin and thiram.

93. (previously presented) The plant or its propagation material according to claim 88, wherein the plant or its propagation material has a transgenic event.

94. (previously presented) The plant or its propagation material according to claim 88, wherein the plant or its propagation material is the product of a QTL-based selective breeding program.

95. (previously presented) A seed that has been treated by the method of claim 2.

96. (previously presented) A formulation for the treatment of a seed, the formulation comprising a triazole fungicide, or a strobilurin type fungicide, a dispersant, a phosphate buffer having the capability of providing buffering at a pH that is within a range of from about 5 to about 9, one or more crystal growth inhibitors, an antifoam agent, a surfactant, a colorant, a polymer sticker or binder, a thickener, glycerin, and water.

97. (previously presented) The formulation according to claim 96, wherein the triazole, or strobilurin-type fungicide is present at a concentration of about 10%; the

dispersant is present at a concentration of about 3%; the phosphate buffer is present in an amount of about 1.5%; the pH is buffered within a range of about 6.5 to about 7.5, the one or more crystal growth inhibitors are present in an amount of about 2.4%; the antifoam agent is present in an amount of about 0.1%; the surfactant is present in an amount of about 0.5%; the colorant is present in an amount of about 8%; the polymer sticker or binder is present in an amount of about 7%; the thickener is present in an amount of about 0.1%; the glycerin is present in an amount of about 5%; and with the remainder being water, where all concentrations are given on a weight basis.

98. (previously presented) The formulation according to claim 96, wherein the triazole fungicide or strobilurin type fungicide comprises simeconazole.